



THE  
 Lady's New-Year's-Gift :  
 OR,  
 ADVICE  
 TO A  
 DAUGHTER.

Under these following Heads : viz.

|               |   |              |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| Religion,     | } | Friendships, |
| Husband,      |   | Censure,     |
| House,        |   | Vanity       |
| Family and    |   | and          |
| Children,     |   | Affectation. |
| Behaviour and | } | Pride,       |
| Conversation, |   | Diversions.  |

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The Eighth Edition exactly Corrected.

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THE  
Lady's New-Year's Gift :  
OR,  
ADVICE  
TO A  
DAUGHTER.

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*Dear Daughter,*

**I** Find, that even our most pleasing Thoughts *will* be unquiet; they *will* be in motion; and the *Mind* can have no rest whilst it is possess'd by a darling Passion. You are at present the

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chief Object of my *Care*, as well as of my *Kindness*, which sometimes throweth me into *Visions* of your being happy in the World, that are better suited to my partial *Wishes*, than to my reasonable *Hopes* for you. At other times, when my *Fears* prevail, I shrink as if I was struck, at the Prospect of *Danger*, to which a young Woman must be expos'd. By how much the more *Lively*, so much the more *Liable* you are to be hurt; as the finest Plants are the soonest nipped by the *Frost*. Whilst you are playing full of Innocence, the spiteful World will bite, except you are guarded by your *Caution*. Want of *Care* therefore, my dear Child, is never to be excus'd; since, as to *this* World it hath the same effect as want of *Vertue*. Such an early  
sprout-

sprouting Wit requireth so much the more to be sheltred by some *Rules*, like something strew'd on tender Flowers to preserve them from being blasted. You must take it well to be prun'd by so kind a Hand as that of a *Father*. There may be some bitterness in meer Obedience: The natural Love of *Liberty* may help to make the Commands of a Parent harder to go down: Some inward resistance there will be, where *Power* and not choice maketh us move. But when a *Father* layeth aside his Authority, and persuadeth only by his Kindness, you will never answer it to Good Nature, if it hath not weight with you.

A great part of what is said in the following *Discourse* may be above the present growth of your

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Understanding; but that becoming every day Taller, will in a little time reach up to it, so as to make it easie to you. I am willing to begin with you before your *Mind* is quite form'd, that being the time in which it is most capable of receiving a *Colour* that will last when it is mix'd with it. Few things are well learnt, but by early *Precepts*: Those well infus'd, make them *Natural*; and we are never sure of retaining what is valuable, till by a continued *Habit* we have made it a Piece of us.

Whether my skill can draw the Picture of a fine Woman, may be a Question: But it can be none, That I have drawn that of a kind *Father*: If you will take an exact Copy, I will so far presume upon my Workmanship, as to under-

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dertake you shall not make an ill *Figure*. Give me so much Credit as to try, and I am sure that neither your wishes nor mine shall be disappointed by it.

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## RELIGION.

**T**HE first thing to be considered, is *Religion*. It must be the chief Object of your Thoughts, since it would be a vain thing to direct your *Behaviour* in the World, and forget that which you are to have towards him who made it. In a strict Sense, it is the only thing necessary: You must take it into your *Mind*, and from thence throw it into your *Heart*, where you are to  
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embrace it so close as never to lose the *Possession* of it. But then it is necessary to distinguish between the *Reality* and the *Pretence*.

*Religion* doth not consist in believing the Legend of the *Nursery*, where Children with their *Milk* are fed with the Tales of Witches, Hobgoblins, Prophecies, and Miracles. We suck in so greedily these early *Mistakes*, that our riper *Understanding* hath much ado to cleanse our *Minds* from this kind of *Trash*: The Stories are so entertaining, that we do not only believe them, but relate them; which makes the Discovery of the *Truth* somewhat grievous, when it makes us lose such a Field of Impertinence, where we might have diverted our selves, besides the throwing some shame upon us for having ever received them. This is making



king the *World* a *Jest*, and imputing to God Almighty, That the Province he assigneth to the Devil, is to play at Blind mans-buff, and shew Tricks with Mankind; and is so far from being *Religion*, that it is not *Sense*, and hath right only to be call'd that kind of Devotion, of which *Ignorance* is the undoubted *Mother*, without Competition or dispute. These Mistakes are therefore to be left off with your Hanging sleeves, and you ought to be as much out of countenance to be found with them about you, as to be seen playing with Babies, at an *Age* when other things are expected from you.

The next thing to be observ'd to you, is, That *Religion* doth as little consist in loud Answers and and devout Convulsions at Church,  
or

or Praying in an extraordinary manner. Some Ladies are so extream stirring at *Church*, that one would swear the *Worm* in their *Conscience* made them so unquiet. Others will have such a Divided Face between a *Devout Goggle* and an *Inviting Glance*, that the unnatural Mixture maketh even the *best Looks* to be at that time *ridiculous*. These affected *Appearances* are ever suspected, like very strong Perfumes, which are generally thought no very good Symptoms in those that make use of them. Let your earnestness therefore be reserved for your *Closet*, where you may have God Almighty to your self: In *Publick* be still and calm, neither undecently *Careless* nor *Affected* in the other Extream.

It is not true Devotion, to put on an angry *Zeal* against those who may be of a differing Persuasion; *Partiality* to our selves makes us often mistake it for a *Duty*, to fall hard upon others in that case; and being push'd on by *Self conceit*, we strike without mercy believing that the *Wounds* we give are *Meritorious*, and that we are fighting God Almighty's Quarrel; when the truth is, we are only setting out our selves. Our *Devotion* too often breaketh out into that *Shape* which most agreeth with our particular *Temper*. The *Cholerick* grow into a hardned Severity against all who dissent from them; snatch at all the Texts of Scripture that suit with their *Complexion*; and because God's Wrath was some time kindled, they conclude, That *Anger* is a Divine Vertue

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Vertue ; and are so far from imagining their ill-natur'd *Zeal* requireth an *Apology*, that they value themselves upon it, and triumph in it. *Others*, whose Nature is more Credulous than Ordinary, admit no Bounds or Measure to it; they grow as proud of extending their *Faith*, as Princes are of enlarging their *Dominions*; not considering, that our *Faith*, like our Stomack, is capable of being over-charg'd ; and that as the last is destroy'd by taking in more than it can digest, so our *Reason* may be extinguish'd by oppressing it with the weight of too many strange things ; especially if we are forbidden to chew what we are commanded to swallow. The *Melancholy* and the *Sullen* are apt to place a great part of their *Religion* in Dejected or Ill-humour'd

*Looks,*

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*Looks*, putting on an unsociable Face and declaiming against the Innocent Entertainment of *Life*, with as much sharpness as they could bestow upon the greatest *Crimes*. This generally is only a *Vizard*, there is seldom any thing real in it. No other thing is the better for being *Sowre* ; and it would be hard that *Religion* should be so, which is the best of things. In the mean time it may be said with truth, That this *surly* kind of *Devotion* hath perhaps done little less hurt in the World, by frightening, than the most scandalous *Examples* have done by infecting it.

Having told you, in these few Instances, to which many more might be added, what is not true *Religion* ; it is time to describe to you what is so. The ordinary  
*Defini-*



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*Definitions* of it are no more like it, than the common Sign-posts are like the Princes they would represent. The unskillful *Dawbers* in all Ages have generally laid on such ill *Colours*, and drawn such harsh *Lines*, that the Beauty of it is not easily to be discerned: They have put in all the forbidding Features that can be thought of; and in the first place, have made it an irreconcilable Enemy to *Nature*; when, in reality, they are not only *Friends* but *Twins*, born together at the same time; and it is doing violence to them both to go about to have them separated. Nothing is so kind and so inviting as true and *unsophisticated Religion*: Instead of imposing unnecessary Burdens upon our *Nature*, it easeth us of the greater weight of  
our



our *Passions* or *Mistakes*: Instead of subduing us with *Rigour*, it redeemeth us from the *Slavery* we are in to our selves, who are the most Severe Masters, whilst we are under the Usurpation of our *Appetites* let loose and not restrained.

*Religion* is a chearful thing, so far from being always at *Cuffs* with *Good Humour*, that it is inseparably united to it. Nothing unpleasant belongs to it, though the *Spiritual Cooks* have done their unskilful part to give an ill *Relish* to it. A wise *Epicure* would be *Religious* for the sake of *Pleasure*; Good Sense is the Foundation of both; and he is a *Bungler* who aimeth at true *Luxury*, but where they are join'd.

*Religion* is exalted *Reason*, refined and sifted from the grosser parts of it. It dwelleth in the  
upper

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upper Region of the *Mind*, where there are fewest *Clouds* or *Mists* to darken or offend it: It is both the Foundation and the Crown of all Vertues: It is *Morality* improv'd and rais'd to its height, by being carried nearer *Heaven*, the only place where *Perfection* resideth. It cleanseth the *Understanding*, and brusheth off the Earth that hangeth about our *Souls*. It doth not want the *Hopes* and the *Terrors* which are made use of to support it; neither ought it to descend to the borrowing any Argument out of it self, since there we may find every thing that should invite us. If we were to be hired to *Religion*, it is able to out-bid the corrupted World, with all it can offer to us, being so much the *Richer* of the two, in every thing where *Reason* is admitted to be a Judge of the Value.

Since

Since this is so, it is worth your pains to make *Religion* your choice and not make use of it only as a *Refuge*. There are Ladies, who finding by the too visible decay of their good Looks, that they can shine no more by that *Light*, put on the *Varnish* of an Affected Devotion, to keep up some kind of Figure in the World. They take Sanctuary in the *Church*, when they are pursued by growing *Contempt*, which will not be stopt, but followeth them to the *Altar*. Such late penitence is only a disguise for the tormenting grief of being no more handsome. That is the killing thought which draweth the sighs and tears, that appeareth outwardly to be applied to a better end.

There are many who have an *Aguish Devotion*, Hot and Cold Fits, long Intermissions, and violent

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lent Raptures. This unevenness is by all means to be avoided. Let your method be a steady course of good *Life*, that may run like a smooth Stream, and be a perpetual Spring to furnish the continued *Exercise* of *Vertue*. Your *Devotion* may be earnest, but it must be unconstrain'd ; and like other Duties, you must make it your *Pleasure* too, or else it will have very little efficacy. By this *Rule* you may best judge of your own Heart. Whilst those *Duties* are *Joys*, it is an evidence of their being sincere ; but when they are a *Penance*, it is a sign that your *Nature* maketh some resistance ; and whilst that lasteth, you can never be entirely secure of your self.

If you are often unquiet, and too nearly touch'd by the cross Accidents of *Life*, your *Devotion* is

is not of the right *Standard*; there is too much *Allay* in it. That which is right and unmixt, taketh away the *Sting* of every thing that would trouble you? It is like a healing *Balm*, that extinguisheth the sharpness of the Blood; so this softeneth and dissolveth the *Anguish* of the *Mind*. A devout *Mind* hath the Priviledge of being free from *Passions*, as some *Climates* are from all venemous kind of *Creatures*. It will raise you above the little *Vexations* to which others for want of it, will be expos'd, and bring you to a *Temper*, not of stupid *Indifference*, but of such a wise *Resignation*, that you may live in the *World*, so as it may hang about you like a loose Garment, and not tied too close to you.

Take heed of running into that common *Error*, of applying God's  
Judgments



Judgments upon particular Occasions. Our Weights and Measures are not competent to make the Distribution either of his *Mercy* or his *Justice*: He hath thrown a Veil over these things, which makes it not only an *Impertinence*, but a kind of *Sacrilege*, for us to give Sentence in them without his *Commission*.

As to your particular *Faith*, keep to the *Religion* that is grown up with you, both as it is the best in it self, and that the reason of staying in it upon that Ground is somewhat stronger for your *Sex*, than it will perhaps be allow'd to be for ours; in respect that the Voluminous enquiries into the *Truth*, by Reading, are less expected from you. The *Best* of *Books* will be Direction enough to you not to change; and whilst you are fix'd and sufficiently confirm'd in your  
own



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own *Mind*, you will do best to keep vain *Doubts* and *Scruples* at such a Distance, that they may give you no Disquiet.

Let me recommend to you a Method of being rightly inform'd, which can never fail: It is in short this. Get *Understanding*, and practice *Vertue*. And if you are so *Blessed* as to have those for your *Share*, it is not surer that there is a *God*, than it is, that by him all *Necessary Truths* will be reveal'd to you.

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## HUSBAND.

THAT which challengeth the next place in your Thoughts, is, how to live with a *Husband*. And though that is so large a Word, that few *Rules* can be fix'd to it which are unchangeable; the *Methods* being as various as the several *Tempers* of *Men* to which they must be suited; yet I cannot omit some *General Observations*, which, with the help of your own may the better direct you in the part of your Life upon which your *Happiness* most dependeth.

It is one of the *Disadvantages* belonging to your *Sex*, that young  
Women

Women are feldom permitted to make their own *Choice*; their Friends Care and Experience are thought safer Guides to them, than their own *Fancies*: and their *Modesty* often forbiddeth them to refuse when their Parents recommend, though their *inward Consent* may not entirely go along with it. In this Case there remaineth nothing for them to do, but to endeavour to make that easie which falleth to their *Lot*, and by a wise Use of every thing they may dislike in a *Husband*, turn that by degrees to be very supportable, which, if neglected, might in time beget an *Aversion*.

You must first lay it down for a Foundation in general, That there is *Inequality* in the *Sexes*, and that for the better Oeconomy of the World, the *Men*, who were

to be the Law-givers, had the larger share of *Reason* bestowed upon them, by which means your Sex is the better prepared for the *Compliance* that is necessary for the better Performance of those *Duties* which seem to be most properly assign'd to it. This looks a little uncourtly at the first Appearance; but upon Examination it will be found, that *Nature* is so far from being unjust to you, that she is partial on our Side. She hath made you such large *Amends* by other Advantages, for the seeming *Injustice* of the first Distribution, that the Right of Complaining is come over to our Sex. You have it in your power not only to free your selves, but to subdue your Masters, and without Violence throw both their *Natural* and *Legal Authority* at your Feet. We  
are

are made of differing *Temper*s, that our *Defects* may the better be mutually supplied: Your *Sex* wanteth our *Reason* for your *Conduct*, and our *Strength* for your *Protection*: Ours wanteth your *Gentleness* to soften and to entertain us. The first part of our Life is a good deal subjected to you in the *Nursery*, where you reign without Competition, and by that means have the advantage of giving the first *Impressions*. Afterwards you have stronger Influences, which, well managed, have more Force on your behalf, than all our *Priviledges* and *Jurisdiction* can pretend to have against you. You have more Strength in your *Looks*, than we have in our *Laws*, and more Power by your *Tears*, than we have by our *Arguments*.



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It is true, that the *Laws* of *Marriage*, run in a harsher Stile towards your *Sex*. *Obe*y is an ungenteel word, and less easie to be digested, by making such an unkind Distinction in the Words of the Contract, and so very unsuitable to the excess of *Good Manners*, which generally goes before it. Besides, the *Universality* of the Rule seemeth to be a *Grievance*, and it appeareth reasonable, that there might be an *Exemption* for extraordinary Women, from ordinary Rules, to take away the just Exception that lieth against the false Measure of *general Equality*.

It may be alledged by the *Coun*sel retained by your *Sex*, that as there is in all other Laws, an Appeal from the *Letter* to the *Equity*, in Cases that require it: It is as reason-



reasonable, that some *Court* of a larger *Jurisdiction* might be erected, where some *Wives* might resort and plead *specially*. And in such Instances, where Nature is so kind, as to raise them above the *Level* of their own *Sex*, they might have *Relief*, and obtain a *Mitigation* in their own particular, of a *Sentence* which was given generally against *Woman kind*. The *Causés* of *Separation* are now so very course, that few are *confident* enough to buy their *Liberty* at the price of having their *Modesty* so exposed. And for *Disparity of Minds*, which above all other things requireth a *Remedy*, the *Laws* have made no *Provision*; so little refin'd are numbers of Men, by whom they are compil'd. This and a great deal more might be

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said to give a colour to the Complaint.

But the Answer to it, in short, is, that the *Institution* of *Marriage* is too sacred to admit a *Liberty* of *objecting* to it; That the Supposition of yours being the weaker *Sex*, having without all doubt a good Foundation, maketh it reasonable to subject it to the *Masculine Dominion*; That no *Rule* can be so *perfect*, as not to admit some *Exceptions*: But the Law presumeth there would be so few found in this Case, who would have a sufficient Right to such a Priviledge, that it is safer some *Injustice* should be *conniv'd* at in a very few Instances; than to break into an Establishment, upon which the Order of Human Society doth so much depend.

You

You are therefore to make your best of what is *settled* by *Law* and *Custom*, and not vainly imagine, that it will be *changed* for your sake. But that you may not be discouraged, as if you lay under the Weight of an *incurable Grievance*, you are to know, that by a *wise* and *dexterous* Conduct, it will be in your Power to relieve your self from any thing that looketh like a Disadvantage to it. For your better Direction, I will give a hint of the most ordinary *Causes* of *Dissatisfaction* between Man and Wife, that you may be able by such a *Warning* to live so upon your *Guard*, that when you shall be married, you may know how to *cure* your Husband's *Mistakes*, and to *prevent* your own.

First then you are to consider, you live in a time which hath rendered some kind of Frailties so habitual, that they lay claim to large *Grains of Allowance*. The World in this is somewhat unequal, and our Sex seemeth to play the *Tyrant* in distinguishing *partially* for our selves, by making that in the utmost degree *Criminal* in the *Woman*, which in a *Man* passeth under a much *gentler Censure*. The Root and the Excuse of this Injustice is the *Preservation* of Families from any *Mixture* which may bring a Blemish to them: And whilst the *Point of Honour* continues to be so plac'd, it seems unavoidable to give your *Sex*, the greater share of the Penalty. But if in this it lieth under any *Disadvantage*, you are more than recompens'd, by having the *Honour* of

of *Families* in your keeping. The Consideration so great a Trust must give you, maketh full Amends; and this Power the World both lodged in you, can hardly fail to restrain the Severity of an *ill* Husband, and to improve the Kindness and Esteem of a *good* one. This being so, remember, That next to the Danger of *committing* the Fault your self, the greatest is that of *seeing* it in your *Husband*. Do not seem to look or hear that way: If he is a Man of Sense, he will reclaim himself; the Folly of it, is of it self sufficient to cure him: If he is not so, he will be provok'd, but not reformed. To expostulate in these Cases, looketh like declaring War, and preparing Reprials; which to a *thinking Husband* would be a dangerous Reflection. Besides it is so course a Reason  
which



which will be assigned for a Lady's too great Warmth upon such an Occasion, that Modesty no less than Prudence ought to restrain her: since such an undecent Complaint makes a Wife much more ridiculous, than the Injury that provoketh her to it. But it is yet worse, and more unskilful, to *blaze it* in the World, expecting it should rise up in Arms to take her part: Whereas she will find, it can have no other Effect, than that she will be served up in all Companies, as the *reigning Jest* at that time; and will continue to be the common Entertainment, till she is rescued by some *newer Folly* that cometh upon the Stage, and driveth her away from it. The Impertinence of such Methods is so plain, that it doth not deserve the Pains of being laid open.



pen. Be assur'd, that in these Cases your *Discretion* and *Silence* will be the most *prevailing Reproof*. An *Affected Ignorance*, which is seldom a *Vertue*, is a great one here: And when your *Husband* seeth how unwilling you are to be uneasy, there is no stronger Argument to perswade him not to be unjust to you. Besides, it will naturally make him more *yielding* in other things: And whether it be to *cover* or redeem his *Offence*, you may have the good Effects of it whilst it lasteth, and all that while have the most reasonable Ground that can be, of presuming such a Behaviour will at last entirely convert him. There is nothing so glorious to a *Wife*, as a Victory so gain'd: A Man so reclaimed, is for ever after subjected to her *Vertue*; and her *bearing* for a time,

is

is more than rewarded by a Triumph that will continue as long as her Life.

The next thing I will suppose, is, That your *Husband* may love *Wine* more than is convenient. It will be granted: That though there are Vices of a deeper Dye, there are none that have a greater *Deformity* than this, when it is not restrain'd: But with all this, the same Custom which is the more to be lamented for its being so general, should make it less uneasie to every one in particular who is to suffer by the Effects of it; So that in the first place, it will be no new thing if you should have a *Drunkard* for your *Husband*; and there is by too frequent Examples evidence enough that such a thing may happen, and yet a *Wife* may live too without being  
mise.

miserable. *Self-Love* dictateth aggravating Words to every thing we feel ; *Ruin* and *Misery* are the Terms we apply to whatever we do not like, forgetting the Mixture allotted to us by the Condition of Human Life, by which it is not intended we should be quite exempt from Trouble. It is fair, if we can escape such a Degree of it as would oppress us, and enjoy so much of the pleasant Part as may lessen the ill Taste of such things as are unwelcome to us. Every thing hath two Sides, and for our own Ease we ought to direct our Thoughts to that which may be least liable to Exception. To fall upon the *worst Side* of a *Drunkard*, giveth so unpleasant a Prospect, that it is not possible to dwell upon it. Let us pass then to the more *favourable Part*.

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*part*, as far as a *Wife* is concern'd in it.

I am tempted to say (if the Irregularities of the Expression could in strictness be justified) That a *Wife* is to thank God her *Husband* hath *Faults*. Mark the seeming Paradox my Dear, for your own Instruction, it being intended no further. A *Husband* without *Faults* is a dangerous Observer; he hath an Eye so piercing, and seeth every thing so plain, that it is expos'd to his full Censure. And though I will not doubt but that your *Vertue* will disappoint the sharpest Enquiries: yet few Women can bear the having all they say or do, represented in the clear Glass of an Understanding without *Faults*. Nothing so tincth the *Arrogance* of our *Nature*, like a Mixture of some *Frailties*.

*Frailties.* It is by them we are best told, that we must not strike too hard upon others, because we our selves do so often deserve Blows: They pull our Rage by the Sleeve, and whisper Gentleness to us in our Censure, even when they are rightly applied. The *Faults* and *Passions* of *Husbands* bring them down to you, and make them content to live upon less unequal Terms, than Faultless Men would be willing to stoop to; so haughty is Mankind till humbled by common Weaknesses and Defects, which in our corrupted State contribute more towards the reconciling us to one another, than all the *Precepts* of the *Philosophers* and *Divines*. So that where the *Errors* of our *Nature* make amends for the *Disadvantages* of yours it is more



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more your part to make use of the *Benefits*, than to quarrel at the *Fault*.

Thus in case a *Drunken Husband* should fall to your share, if you will be *wise* and *patient*, his *Wine* shall be of your Side; it will throw a *Veil* over your Mistakes, and will set out and improve every thing you do, that he is pleased with. Others will like him less, and by that means he may perhaps like you the more. When after having dined too well, he is received at home without a *Storm*, or so much as a *reproachful Look*, the *Wine* will naturally work out all in Kindness, which a *Wife* must encourage, let it be wrapped up in never so much Impertinence. On the other Side it would boil up into *Rage*, if the mistaken *Wife* should



should treat him roughly, like a certain thing called a *kind Shrew*, than which the World, with all its Plenty, cannot shew a more senseless, ill-bred, forbidding Creature. Consider, that where the Man will give such frequent Intermissions of the use of his *Reason*, the *Wife* insensibly getteth a Right of *Governing* in the Vacancy, and that raiseth her *Character* and *Credit* in the Family, to a higher pitch than perhaps could be done under a *sober Husband*, who never putteth himself into an Incapacity of holding the *Reins*. If these are not intire *Consolations*, at least they are *Remedies* to some Degree. They cannot make *Drunkennes* a *Vertue*, nor a *Husband* given to it a *Felicity*; but you will do your self no ill Office in the endeavouring, by these Means

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Means, to make the best of such a *Lot*, in case it should happen to be yours, and by the help of a wise Observation, to make that very supportable, which would otherwise be a *Load* that would oppress you.

The next Case I will put is, that your *Husband* may be *Cholerick* or *Ill-humour'd*. To this may be said, That *passionate* Men generally make amends at the Foot of the Account. Such a Man, if he is angry one day without any *Cause*, will the next day be as kind without any *Reason*. So that by marking how the *Wheels* of such a Man's Head are used to move, you may easily bring over all his *Passion* to your Party. Instead of being struck down by his Thunder, you shall direct it where and upon whom you shall think it best applied. Thus are the

the *strongest Poisons* turn'd to the *best Remedies* ; but then there must be *Art* in it, and a *skilful Hand*, else the least *bungling* maketh it mortal. There is a great deal of nice *Care* requisite to deal with a Man of this *Complexion*. *Choler* proceedeth from *Pride*, and maketh a Man so partial to himself, that he swelleth against *Contradiction* ; and thinketh he is lessened if he is opposed. You must in this *Case* take heed of *increasing the Storm* by an *unwary Word*, or *kindling the Fire* whilst the *Wind* is in a *Corner* which may blow it in your *Face* : You are dexterously to yield every thing till he beginneth to cool, and then by slow degrees you may rise and gain upon him : Your *Gentleness* well timed, will, like a *Charm*, dispel his *Anger* ill placed ; a *kind Smile* will

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will *reclaim*, when a *shrill pettish Answer* would *provoke* him; rather than fail upon such Occasions, when other *Remedies* are too weak, a little *Flattery* may be admitted, which by being necessary, will cease to be Criminal.

If *Ill Humours* and *Sullenness*, and not open and sudden Heat is his Disease, there is a way of treating that too, so as to make it a Grievance to be endured. In order to it, you are first to know, that naturally good *Sense* hath a mixture of *surly* in it: and there being so much *Folly* in the World, and for the most part so triumphant, it giveth frequent Temptations to raise the *Spleen* of Men who think right. Therefore that which may generally be called *Ill-Humour*, is not always a Fault; it becometh one when either it is wrong applied,

plied, or that it is continued too long, when it is not so : For this Reason you must not too hastily fix an ill Name upon that which may perhaps not deserve it; and though the Case should be, that your *Husband* might too sourly resent any thing he disliketh, it may so happen, that more Blame shall belong to your *Mistake*, than to his *Ill-Humour*. If a *Husband* behaveth himself sometimes with an *Indifference* that a *Wife* may think offensive, she is in the wrong to put the worst Sense upon it, if by any Means it will admit a better. Some *Wives* will call it *Ill-Humour* if their *Husbands* change their *Style* from that which they used whilst they made their first Addresses to them: Others will allow no *Intermission* or *Abatement* in the Expressions of Kindness



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to them, not enough distinguishing Times, and forgetting that it is impossible for Men to keep themselves up all their Lives to the height of some *extravagant Moments*. A Man may at some times be less careful in little things, without any cold or disobliging Reason for it: as a *Wife* may be too expecting in smaller matters, without drawing upon her self the inference of being *unkind*. And if your *Husband* should be really sullen, and have such frequent Fits, as might take away the Excuse of it, it concerneth you to have an Eye prepared to discern the first Appearances of Cloudy Weather, and to watch when the Fit goeth off, which seldom lasteth long if it is let alone. But whilst the mind is sore, every thing galleth it, and that maketh it necessary



fary to let the *Black-Humour* begin to spend it self, before you come in and venture to undertake it.

If in the Lottery of the World you should draw a *Covetous Husband*, I confess it will not make you proud of your *good Luck*; yet even such a one may be endured too, though there are few Passions more untractable than that of *Avarice*. You must first take care that your *Definition* of *Avarice* may not be a Mistake. You are to examine every Circumstance of your *Husband's* Fortune, and weigh the Reason of every thing you expect from him before you have right to pronounce that Sentence. The Complaint is now so general against all *Husbands*, that it giveth great suspicion of its being often ill-grounded; it is impossible

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possible they should all deserve that Censure, and therefore it is certain that it is many times misapplied. He that *spareth* in every thing is an *inexcusable Niggard*; he that *spareth* in nothing is an *inexcusable Madman*. The *mean* is, to spare in what is least necessary, to lay out more liberally in what is most required in our several Circumstances. Yet this will not always satisfy. There are *Wives* who are impatient of the Rules of Oeconomy, and are apt to call their *Husband's* Kindness in question, if any other measure is put to their Expence than that of their own Fancy. Be sure to avoid this dangerous Error, such a Partiality to your Self, which is so offensive to an understanding Man, that he will very ill bear a *Wife's* giving her self such an injurious

jurious *preference* to all the *Family*, and whatever belongeth to it.

But to admit the worst, and that your *Husband* is really a *Close-handed Wretch*, you must in this, as in other Cases, endeavour to make it less afflicting to you; and first you must observe *seasonable Hours* of speaking, when you offer any thing in opposition to this reigning Humour, a *third Hand* and a *wise Friend*, may often prevail more than you will be allowed to do in your own Cause. Sometimes you are dexterously to go along with him in things, where you see that the niggardly part of his Mind is most predominant, by which you will have the better Opportunity of perswading him in things where he may be more indifferent. Our *Passions* are very

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unequal, and are apt to be raised or lessened, according as they work upon different Objects; they are not to be *stopped* or *restrained* in those things where our Mind is more particularly engaged. In other matters they are more tractable, and will sometimes give Reason a hearing, and admit a fair Dispute. More than that, there are few Men, even in this Instance of *Avarice*, so entirely abandon'd to it, that at some Hours, and upon some Occasions, will not forget their Natures, and for that time turn Prodigal. The same Man who will *grudge* himself what is necessary, let his *Pride* be raised and he shall be *profuse*; at another time his *Anger* shall have the same Effect; a Fit of *Vanity*, *Ambition*, and sometimes of *Kindness*, shall open and enlarge his

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*narrow Mind*; a Dose of Wine will work upon this tough Humour, and for the time dissolve it. Your Business must be, if this Case happeneth, to watch these *critical Moments*, and not let one of them slip without making your Advantage of it: and a *Wife* may be said to want *Skill*, if by these Means she is not able to secure herself in a good measure against the Inconveniencies this scurvy Quality in her *Husband* might bring upon her, except he should be such an incurable *Monster*, as I hope will never fall to your Share.

The last Supposition I will make, is, That if your *Husband* should be *weak* and *incompetent* to make use of the Priviledges that belong to him. It will be yielded, that such a one leaveth room



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for a great many Objections. But God Almighty feldom sendeth a *Grievance* without a *Remedy*, or at least such a *Mitigation* as taketh away a great part of the *Sting*, and the *Smart* of it. To make such a *Misfortune* less heavy, you are first to bring to your *Observation*, That a *Wife* very often maketh better *Figure*, for her *Husband's* making no great one: And there seemeth to be little *Reason*, why the same *Lady* that chuseth a *Waiting Woman* with worse *Looks*, may not be content with a *Husband* with less *Wit*; the *Argument* being equal from the *Advantage* of the *Comparison*. If you will be more ashamed in some *Cases*, of such a *Husband*, you will be less afraid than you would perhaps be of a wise one. His *Unseasonable Weakness* may no doubt sometimes

times grieve you, but then set against this, that it giveth you the *Dominion*, if you will make the right Use of it. It is next to his being dead, in which Case the *Wife* hath Right to Administer; therefore be sure, if you have such an Idiot, that none except your self, may have the benefit of the Forfeiture; Such a Fool is a dangerous Beast, if others have the keeping of him; and you must be very undexterous, if when your *Husband* shall resolve to be an *Ass*, you do not take care he may be *your Ass*. But you must go skilfully about it, and above all things take heed of distinguishing in publick what kind of *Husband* he is: Your inward Thoughts must not hinder the outward Payment of the Consideration that is due to him: Your *sighting* him in Com-

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*pany*, besides that it would, to a discerning By-stander, give too great Encouragement for the making nearer Applications to you, is in it self such an undecent way of assuming, that it may provoke the tame Creature to break loose, and to shew his *Dominion* for his Credit, which he was content to forget for Ease. In short, the surest and most approved method will be to do like a wise *Minister* to an easie *Prince*; first give him the Orders you afterwards receive from him.

With all this, that which you are to pray for; is a *Wise Husband*, one that by knowing how to be a *Master*, for that very Reason will not let you feel the weight of it; one whose Authority is so softned by his Kindness, that it giveth you Ease without  
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abridging your *Liberty* ; one that will return so much *Tenderneſs* for your *juſt Eſteem* of him, that you will never want *power*, though you will ſeldom care to uſe it. Such a *Husband* is as much above all the other kinds of them, as a *rational Subjection* to a Prince, great in himſelf, is to be preferr'd before the Diſquiet and Uneaſineſs of *Unlimited Liberty*.

Before I leave this Head, I muſt add a little concerning your *Behaviour* to your *Husband's Friends*, which requireth the moſt refined part of your Underſtanding to acquit your ſelf well of it. You are to ſtudy how to live with them with more care than you are to apply to any other part of your Life ; eſpecially at firſt, that you may not ſtumble at the firſt ſetting out. The *Family* into

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which you are grafted will generally be apt to expect, that like a Stranger in a Foreign Country, you should conform to their Methods, and not bring in a new Model by your own Authority. The *Friends* in such a Case are tempted to rise up in Arms as against an unlawful Invasion, so that you are with the utmost Caution to avoid the least Appearances of any thing of this Kind. And that you may with less Difficulty afterwards give your Directions, be sure at first to receive them from your *Husband's* Friends. Gain them to you by early applying to them, and they will be so satisfied, that as nothing is more thankful than Pride, when it is complied with, they will strive which of them shall most recommend you; and when they have help-



helped you to take Root in your *Husband's* good Opinion, you will have less Dependance upon theirs, though you must not neglect any reasonable means of preserving it. You are to consider, that a Man governed by his *Friends*, is very easily inflamed by them ; and that one who is not so, will yet for his own sake expect to have them considered. It is easily improved to a point of Honour in a *Husband*, not to have his *Relations* neglected, and nothing is more dangerous, than to raise an Objection, which is grounded upon *Pride* : It is the most stubborn and lasting Passion we are subject to, and where it is the first Cause of the *War*, it is very hard to make a secure *Peace*. Your *Caution* in this is of the last Importance to you.

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And that you may the better succeed in it, carry a strict Eye upon the *Impertinence* of your *Servants*; take heed that their *Ill-humour* may not engage you to take Exceptions, or their too much assuming in small Matters, raise Consequence which may bring you under great Disadvantage. Remember that in the Case of a *Royal Bride*, those about her are generally so far suspected to bring in a Foreign Interest, that in most Countries they are insensibly reduced to a very small number, and those of so low a Figure, that it doth not admit the being *Jealous* of them. In little and in the Proportion, this may be the Case of every *New married Woman*, and therefore it may be more adviseable for you, to gain the *Servants* you find in a Family, than to tie  
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your self too fast to those you carry into it.

You are not to overlook these small Reflexions, because they may appear low and inconsiderable; for it may be said, that as the *greatest Streams* are made up of the *small drops* at the Head of the Springs from whence they are derived, so the *greater Circumstances* of your Life, will be in some degree directed by these seeming *Trifles*, which having the Advantage of being the first Acts of it, have a greater Effect than singly in their own nature they could pretend to.

I will conclude this Article with my Advice, That you would, as much as Nature will give you leave, endeavour to forget the great *Indulgence* you have found at home. After such a gentle  
Disci-

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Discipline as you have been under, every thing you dislike will seem the harsher to you. The Tender-ness we have had for you, *My Dear*, is of another nature, peculiar to kind Parents, and differing from that which you will meet with first in any Family into which you shall be transplanted; and yet they may be very kind too, and afford no justifiable Reason to you to complain. You must not be frightened with the first Appearances of a *differing Scene*; for when you are used to it, you may like the House you go to, better than that you left; and your *Husband's* Kindness will have so much advantage of ours, that we shall yield up all *Competition*, and as well as we love you, be very well contented to surrender to such a *Rival*.

*HOUSE,*

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## HOUSE, FAMILY, and CHILDREN.

**Y**OU must lay before you, *My Dear*, there are Degrees of Care to recommend your self to the World in the several parts of your Life. In many things, though the doing them well may raise your *Credit* and *Esteem*, yet the Omission of them would draw no immediate Reproach upon you: In others, where your Duty is more particularly applyed, the neglect of them is amongst those Faults which are not forgiven, and will bring you under a *Censure*, which will be much a heavier thing than  
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the Trouble you would avoid. Of this kind is the *Government* of your *House, Family, and Children*, which since it is the Province allotted to your Sex, and that the *discharging it well*, will for that Reason be expected from you, if you either desert it out of *Laziness*, or manage it ill for want of *Skill*, instead of a *Help* you will be an *Incumbrance* to the *Family* where you are plac'd

I must tell you, that no *Respect* is lasting, but that which is produced by our being in some degree useful to those that pay it. Where that faileth, the *Homage* and the *Reverence* go along with it, and fly to others where something may be expected in exchange for them. And upon this Principle the *Respects* even of the *Children* and the *Servants* will not stay  
with

with one that doth not think them worth their Care, and the old *House-keeper* shall make a better Figure in the Family, than the *Lady* with all her fine Cloaths, if she wilfully relinquishes her Title to the *Government*. Therefore take heed of carrying your good *Breeding* to such a height, as to be good for nothing, and to be proud of it. Some think it hath a great Air to be above troubling their Thoughts with such ordinary things as their *House* and *Family*; others dare not admit *Cares* for fear they should hasten *Wrinkles*; mistaken *Pride* maketh some think they must keep themselves up, and not descend to these Duties, which do not seem enough refin'd for great *Ladies* to be imploy'd in; forgetting all this while, that it is more than the greatest *Prin-*

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*ces* can do, at once to preserve Re-  
 spect, and to neglect their Busi-  
 ness. No *Age* ever erected *Altars*  
 to *insignificant Gods*: they had all  
 some *Quality* applied to them to  
 draw *Worship* from *Mankind*; this  
 maketh it the more unreasonable  
 for a *Lady* to expect to be conside-  
 red, and at the same time resolve  
 not to deserve it. *Good Looks* alone  
 will not do; they are not such a  
 lasting *Tenure*, as to be relied up-  
 on; and if they should stay lon-  
 ger than they usually do, it will  
 by no means be safe to depend  
 upon them: For when time hath  
 abated the Violence of the first li-  
 king, and that the *Napp* is a lit-  
 tle worn off, though still a good  
 degree of Kindness may remain,  
 Men recover their Sight which  
 before might be dazzled, and al-  
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low themselves to object as well as to admire.

In such a Case, when a *Husband* seeth an empty airy thing sail up and down the House to no kind of Purpose, and look as if she came thither only to make a Visit. When he findeth that after her *Emptiness* hath been extreme busie about some very senseless thing, she eats her Breakfast half an hour before Dinner, to be at greater Liberty to afflict the Company with her Discourse; then calleth for her Coach, that she may trouble her Acquaintance, who are already cloy'd with her: And having some *proper Dialogues* ready to display her *Foolish Eloquence* at the Top of the Stairs, she setteth out like a Ship out of the Harbour, laden with Trifles, and cometh back with them: at her Return she

she repeateth to her faithful waiting-Woman, the *Triumphs* of that day's *Impertinence*; then wrapped up in Flattery and clean Linnen, goeth to Bed so satisfied, that it throweth her into pleasant Dreams of her own Felicity. Such a one is seldom serious but with her *Taylor*; her *Children* and Family may now and then have a random Thought, but she never taketh aim but at something very Impertinent. Ifay, when a *Husband*, whose Province is without Doors, and to whom the Oeconomy of the House would be in some degree Indecent, findeth no Order nor *Quiet* in his Family, meeteth with *Complaints* of all kinds springing from this Root; The *Mistaken Lady*, who thinketh to make *amends* for all this, by having a well-chosen *Petty-Coat*, will  
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at last be convinced of her *Error*, and with Grief be forced to undergo the Penalties that belong to those who are wilfully *Insignificant*. When this scurvy Hour cometh upon her, she first groweth *Angry*; then when the time of it is past, would perhaps grow *wiser*, not remembering that we can no more have *Wisdom* than *Grace*, whenever we think fit to call for it. There are Times and Periods fixed for both; and when they are too long neglected, the Punishment is, that they are *Irrecoverable*, and nothing remaining but an useless *Grief* for the Folly, of having thrown them out of our Power. You are to think what a mean Figure a Woman maketh, when she is so degraded by her own Fault; whereas there is nothing in those Duties  
which

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which are expected from you, that can be a lessening to you, except your want of *Conduct* makes it so. You may love your *Children* without living in the *Nursery*, and you may have a *competent* and *discreet* *Care* of them, without letting it break out upon the *Company*; or exposing your self by turning your *Discourse* that way, which is a kind of *Laying Children* to the *Parish*, and it can hardly be done any where, that those who hear it will be so forgiving, as not to think they are overcharged with them. A Woman's *Tendernefs* to her *Children* is one of the least deceitful Evidencies of her *Vertue*; but yet the way of expressing it, must be subject to the *Rules* of good *Breeding*: And though a *Woman* of *Quality* ought not to be less kind to them, than *Mothers* of the

the *Meaneſt Rank* are to theirs, yet ſhe may diſtinguiſh herſelf in the *Manner*, and avoid the coarſe *Methods*, which in Women of a lower *Size* might be more excuſable. You muſt begin early to make them love you, that they may obey you. This Mixture is no where more neceſſary than in Children. And I muſt tell you, that you are not to expect Returns of Kindneſs from yours, if you ever have any, without Grains of Allowance; and yet it is not ſo much a defect in their good *Nature*, as a ſhortneſs of *Thought* in them. Their firſt *Inſufficiency* maketh them lean ſo entirely upon their *Parents* for what is neceſſary, that the habit of it maketh them continue the ſame *Expectations* for what is *unreaſonable*; and as often as they are denied, ſo often they think they are *injur'd*:  
and

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and whilst their *Reason's* yet in the Cradle, their *Anger* looketh no farther than the thing they long for and cannot have ; and to be *displeased* for their *own good*, is a *Maxim* they are very slow to understand : So that you may conclude, the first Thoughts of your *Children* will have no small Mixture of Mutiny ; which being so natural, you must not be Angry, except you would increase it. You must deny them as seldom as you can, and when there is no avoiding it, you must do it *gently* ; you must flatter away their ill Humour, and take the next Opportunity of pleasing them in some other thing, before they either ask or look for it : This will strengthen your *Authority*, by making it soft to them ; and confirm their *Obedience*, by making it their Interest.

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You are to have as strict a Guard upon your self amongst your *Children*, as if you were amongst your *Enemies*. They are apt to make wrong Inferences, to take Encouragement from half Words, and misapply what you may say or do, so as either to lessen their *Duty*, or to extend their *Liberty* farther than is convenient. Let them be more in awe of your *Kindness* than of your *Power*. And above all, take heed of supporting a *Favourite Child* in its Impertinence, which will give Right to the rest of claiming the same Priviledge. If you have a divided Number, leave the *Boys* to the *Father's* more peculiar Care, that you may with the greater Justice pretend to a more immediate Jurisdiction over those of your own *Sex*. You are to live so with them, that they  
may



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may never chuse to avoid you, except when they have *offended*, and then let them tremble, that they may distinguish: But their Penance must not continue so long as to grow too *soure* upon their *Stomachs*, that it may not *harden* instead of *correcting* them: The kind and severe Part must have their several *Turns* seasonably applied; but your *Indulgence* is to have the broader mixture, that *Love*, rather than *Fear*, may be the Root of their *Obedience*.

Your *Servants* are in the next place to be considered; and you must remember not to fall into the Mistake of thinking, that because they receive Wages, and are so much *Inferiour* to you, therefore they are *below* your Care to know how to manage them. It would be as good Reason for a *Master*  
*Workman*.

*Workman* to despise the *Wheels* of his *Engines*, because they are made of *Wood*. These are the *Wheels* of your *Family*; and let your *Directions* be never so faultless, yet if these *Engines* stop or move wrong, the whole order of your *House* is either at a stand, or discomposed. Besides, the *Inequality* which is between you, must not make you forget that *Nature* maketh no such *Distinction*, but that *Servants* may be looked upon as *humble Friends*, and that *Returns* of *Kindness* and good *Usage* are as much due to such of them as deserve it, as their *Service* is due to *us* when we require it. A foolish haughtiness in the *Style* of *speaking*, or in the manner of *commanding* them, is in it self very *undecent*; besides that it begetteth an *Aversion* in them,

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of which the least ill Effect to be expected, is, that they will be *slow* and *careless* in all that is injoynd them: And you will find it true by your Experience, that you will be so much the more *obey'd* as you are less *Imperious*. Be not *too hasty* in giving your *Orders*, nor *too angry* when they are not altogether *observ'd*, much less are you to be loud, and too much disturbed: An *evenness* in distinguishing when they do well or *Ill*, is that which will make your *Family* move by a Rule, and without Noise, and will the better set out your Skill in conducting it with Ease and Silence, that it may be like a well disciplined Army; which knoweth how to anticipate the *Orders* that are fit to be given them. You are never to neglect the Duty of the *present Hour*,  
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to do another thing, which though it may be better in it self, is not to be unseasonably preferred. Allot well chosen Hours for the Inspection of your *Family*, which may be so distinguished from the rest of your Time, that the *necessary Cares* may come in their proper Place, without any Influence upon your good Humour, or Interruption to other things. By these Methods you will put your self in possession of being valued by your Servants, and then their *Obedience* will naturally follow.

I must not forget one of the greatest *Articles* belonging to a *Family*, which is the *Expence*. It must not be such, as by failing either in the Time or Measure of it, may rather draw *Censure* than gain *Applause*. If it was well examined, there is more Money given

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to be laugh'd at, than for any one thing in the World, though the Purchasers do not think so. A well stated Rule is like the *Line*, when that is once pass'd we are under another *Pole*; so the first *straying* from a *Rule*, is a step towards making that which was before a *Vertue*, to change its Nature, and to grow either into a *Vice*, or at least an *Impertinence*. The Art of laying out Money wisely, is not attained to without a great deal of thought; and it is yet more difficult in the Case of a *Wife*, who is accountable to her *Husband* for her Mistakes in it. It is not only his *Money*, his *Credit* too is at Stake, if what lyeth under the *Wife's* Care is managed, either with undecent *Thrift*, or too loose *Profusion*. You are therefore to keep the

*Means*



*Mean* between these two *Extremes* and it being hardly possible to hold the Balance exactly even, let it rather incline toward the *Liberal* side, as more suitable to your *Quality*, and less subject to *Reproach*. Of the two a little *Money* mispent is sooner *recovered*, then the *Credit* which is lost by having it unhandsomely *saved*; and a Wise *Husband* will less forgive a shameful piece of *Par-simony*, than a little *Extravagance*, if it be not too often repeated. His *Mind* in this must be your chief *Direction*; and his *Temper* when once known, will in a great measure justify your part in the management, if he is pleased with it.

In your *Cloathes* avoid too much *Gaudy*; do not value your self upon an *Imbroidered Gown*;

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and remember, that a *reasonable Word*, or an *obliging Look*, will gain you more respect, than all your *fine Trappings*. This is not said to restrain you from a *decent Compliance* with the World, provided you take the wiser, and not the foolisher part of your Sex for your Pattern. Some *distinctions* are to be allowed, whilst they are well suited to your *Quality* and *Fortune*, and in the distribution of the Expence, it seemeth to me that a *full Attendance* and *well-chosen Ornaments*, for your House, will make you a better Figure, than *too much Glittering* in what you wear, which may with more ease be imitated by those that are below you. Yet this must not tempt you to starve every thing but your own Apartment; or in order to more abundance there,  
give

give just cause to the least Servant you have, to complain of of the Want of what is necessary. Above all, fix it in your thoughts, as an unchangeable *Maxim*, That nothing is *truly fine* but what is *fit*, and that just so much as is proper for your *Circumstances* of their several kinds, is much finer than all you can add to it. When you once break through these bounds, you launch into a wide Sea of *Extravagance*. Every thing will become necessary, because you have a mind to it, and you have a mind to it, not because it is *fit* for you, but because some Body else *hath* it. This *Lady's Logick* setteth *Reason* upon its Head, by carrying the *Rule* from things to *Persons*, and appealing from what is right to every Fool that is in the *wrong*. The word

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*necessary* is miserably applyed, it disordereth *Families*, and overturneth *Government* by being so abused. Remember that *Children* and *Fools* want every thing, because they want Wit to distinguish, and therefore there is no stronger Evidence of a *Crazy Understanding*, than the making too large a Catalogue of things necessary, when in truth there are so very few things that have a right to be placed in it. Try every thing first in your *Judgment*, before you allow it a place in your *Desire*; else your *Husband* may think it as necessary for him to deny, as it is for you to *have* whatever is unreasonable; and if you shall too often give him that advantage, the habit of *refusing* may perhaps reach to things that are not unfit for you.

There

There are untkinking *Ladies*, who do not enough consider, how little their own Figure agreeth with the *fine things* they are so proud of. Others when they have them will hardly allow them to be *visible*, they cannot be seen without *Light*, and that is many times so sawcy and so prying, that like a too forward *Gallant* it is to be forbid the *Chamber*. Some, when you are ushered into their *Dark Ruelle*, it is with such solemnity, that a Man would swear there were something in it till the *Unskilful Lady* breaketh silence, and beginneth a Chat, which discovereth it is a Poppet-play with Magnificent Scenes. Many esteem things rather as they are hard to be gotten, than that they are worth getting: This looketh as if they had an Interest to pursue



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sue that Maxim, because a great part of their own *value* dependeth upon it. Truth in these Cases would be often *unmannerly*, and might derogate from the *Perogative* great *Ladies* would assume to themselves, of being distinct Creatures from those of their Sex, which are inferiour, and of less difficult access.

In other things too, your Condition must give the rule to you, and therefore it is not a Wife's part to aim at more than a bounded *Liberality*; the farther extent of that *Quality* (otherwise to be commended) belongeth to the *Husband*, who hath better means for it. *Generosity* wrong placed becometh a *Vice*. It is no more a *Vertue* when it groweth into an *Inconvenience*, *Vertues* must be enlarged or restrained according to differing  
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Circumstances. A *Princely Mind* will undo a *private Family*: Therefore things must be suited, or else they will not deserve to be Comended, let them in themselves be never so valuable: And the Expectations of the World are best answered, when we acquit our selves in that manner which seemeth to be prescrib'd to our several Conditions, without usurping upon those Duties, which do not so particularly belong to us.

I will close the consideration of this *Article of Expence*, with this short word. Do not *fetter* your self with such a *Restraint* in it as may make you *Remarkable*; but remember that *Vertue* is the greatest *Ornament*, and good *Sence* the best *Equipage*.

## BEHAVIOUR and CONVERSATION.

**I**T is time now to lead you out of your *House* into the *World*. A Dangerous step; where your Vertue alone will not secure you, except it is attended with a great deal of *Prudence*. You must have *both* for your *Guard*, and not stir without them. The Enemy is abroad, and you are sure to be taken, if you are found stragling. Your *Behaviour* is therefore to incline strongly towards the *Reserved* part; your *Character* is to be immoveably fixed upon that Bottom, not excluding a mixture of greater freedom, as far as it may

may be innocent and well-timed. The *Extravagances* of the Age have made *Caution* more necessary; and by the same reason that the too great Licence of ill Men hath by Consequence in many things restrained the Lawful Liberty of those who did not abuse it, the unjustifiable Freedoms of some of your Sex have involved the rest in the Penalty of being reduced. And though this cannot so alter the Nature of things, as to make that *Criminal*, which in it self is *Indifferent*; yet if it maketh it *dangerous*, that alone is sufficient to justify the *Restraint*. A *close Behaviour* is the fittest to receive *Vertue* for its constant Guest, because there, and there only, it can be secure. Proper *Reserves* are the Out-works, and must never be deserted by those  
 who

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who intend to keep the Place; they keep off the possibilities not only of being *taken*, but of being *attempted*; and if a Woman seeth Danger tho' at never so remote a Distance, she is for that time to shorten her *Line of Liberty*. She who will allow her self to go to the *utmost Extent* of every thing that is *Lawful*, is so very near going farther, that those who lie at watch, will begin to count upon her.

*Mankind*, from the double temptation of *Vanity* and *Desire*, is apt to turn every thing a *Woman* doth to the *hopeful side*; and there are few who dare to make an impudent Application, till they discern something which they are willing to take for an *Encouragement*. It is safer therefore to prevent such *Forwardness*,  
or w  
than



## BEHAVIOUR, &c. 83

than to go about to *cure* it. It gathereth Strength by the first *allowances*, and claimeth a Right from having been at any time suffered with Impunity. Therefore nothing is with more care to be avoided, than such a kind of *Civility* as may be mistaken for *Invitation*; and it will not be enough for you to keep your self free from any *Criminal Engagements*; for if you do that which either raiseth *Hopes* or createth *Discourse*, there is a Spot thrown upon your Good Name; and those kind of Stains are the harder to be taken out, being dropped upon you by the *Man's Vanity*, as well as by the *Woman's Malice*.

Most Men are in one sence *Plattonick Lovers*, though they are not willing to own that *Character*.  
They

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They are so far *Philosophers*, as to allow, that the greatest part of Pleasure lieth in the *Mind*; and in pursuance of that *Maxim*, there are few who do not place the Felicity more in the Opinion of the World, of their being *prosperous Lovers*, than in the *Blessing* it self, how much soever they appear to value it. This being so, you must be very cautious not to gratifie these *Cameleons* at the price of bringing a *Cloud* upon your *Reputation*, which may be deeply wounded, tho' your *Conscience* is unconcern'd.

Your own Sex too will not fail to help the least Appearance that giveth a *Handle* to be ill turned. The best of them will not be displeased to improve their own Value, by laying others under a *Disadvantage*, when there is a fair Occasion

cation given for it. It distinguisheth them still the more: Their own *Credit* is more exalted, and like a Picture set off with Shades, shineth more when a *Lady*, either less *Innocent*, or less *Discreet* is set near, to make them appear so much the brighter. If these lend their Breath to blast such as are so unwary as to give them this Advantage, you may be sure there will be a stronger Gale from those, who, besides *Malice* or *Emulation*, have an *Interest* too, to strike hard upon a Vertuous Woman. It seemeth to them, that their Load of Infamy is lessened, by throwing part of it upon others: So that they will not only improve when it lieth in their way, but take pains to find out the least mistake an *Innocent Woman* committeth, in Revenge of the Injury she doth in  
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leading a Life which is a Reproach to them. With these you must be extreme *wary*, and neither provoke them to be *angry*, nor invite them to be *Intimate*.

To the *Men* you are to have a *Behaviour* which may secure you, without offending them. No ill-bred affected *Shyness*, nor a *Roughness*, unsuitable to your *Sex*, and unnecessary to your *Vertue*; but a way of Living that may prevent all course of *Ralleries* or *unmannerly Freedoms*; *Looks* that forbid without *Rudeness*, and oblige without *Invitation*, or leaving Room for the sawcy Inferences Men's Vanity suggesteth to them upon the least Encouragements. This is so very nice, that it must Engage you to have a perpetual *Watch* upon your *Eyes*, and to remember, that one careless *Glance* giveth

giveth more advantage than a *hundred Words* not enough considered; the *Language* of the *Eyes* being very much the most *significant*, and the most *observed*.

Your *Civility*, which is always to be preserved, must not be carried to a *Compliance*, which may betray you into irrecoverable Mistakes. This *French* ambiguous word *Complaisance* hath led your Sex into more blame, than all other things put together. It carrieth them by Degrees into a certain thing called a good kind of *Woman*, an easie *Idle Creature*, that doth neither *Good* nor *Ill* but by *chance*, hath no *Choice*, but leaveth that to the Company she keepeth. *Time*, which by degrees addeth to the signification of *Words*, hath made her, according to the *Modern Stile*; little better than one  
who



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who thinketh it a *Rudeness* to deny when civilly required, either her *Service in Person*, or her *friendly Assistance*, to those who would have a *meeting*, or want a *Confident*. She is a certain thing always at hand, an easie *Companion*, who hath ever great *Compassion* for *distressed Lovers*: She censureth nothing but *Rigour*, and is never without a *Plaister* for a *wounded Reputation*, in which chiefly lieth her Skill in *Chirurgery*; She Seldom hath the Propriety of any *particular Gallant*, but liveth upon *Brokage*, and waiteth for the Scraps her Friends are content to leave her.

There is another *Character* not quite so *Criminal*; yet not less *Ridiculous*; which is that of a *good-humour'd Woman*, one who thinketh she must always be in a *Laugh*, or a broad *Smile*, because

Good

*Good-Humour* is an obliging Quality; thinketh it less ill manners to talk *Impertinently*, than to be silent in *Company*. When such a prating *Engine* rideth *Admiral*, and carrieth the *Lantern* in a *Circle of Fools*, a cheerful *Coxcomb* coming in for a *Recruit*, the *Chattering* of *Monkeys* is a better noise than such a *Concert* of *senseless Merriment*. If she is applauded in it, she is so encouraged, that, like a *Ballad-singer*, who if commended, breaketh his Lungs, she letteth her self loose, and overfloweth upon the *Company*. She conceiveth that *Mirth* is to have no intermission, and therefore she will carry it about with her, though it be to a *Funeral*; and if a Man should put a familiar Question, she doth not know very well how to be angry, for then she  
would

would be no more that pretty thing called a *Good Humour'd Woman*. This necessity of appearing at all times to be so infinitely pleased is a grievous Mistake; since in a *handsom Woman* that *Invitation* is unnecessary; and in one who is not so, *ridiculous*. It is not intended by this, that you would forswear *Laughing*; but remember, that Fools being always Painted in that Posture, it may fright those who are wise from doing it too frequently, and going to near a Copy which is so little inviting, and much more from doing it *loud*, which is an unnatural Sound, and looketh so much like another Sex, that few things are more offensive. That *boisterous* kind of *Jollity* is as contrary to *Wit* and *Good Manners*, as it is to *Modesty* and *Vertue*. Besides, it is a coarse kind of quality

ty, that throweth a Woman into a lower Form, and degradeth her from the Rank of those who are more refined. Some *Ladies* speak loud and make a noise to be the more minded, which looketh as if they beat their *Drums* for *Volunteers*, and if by misfortune none come in to them, they may, not without Reason, be a good deal out of Countenance.

There is one thing, yet more to be avoided, which is the *Example* of those who intended nothing farther than the Vanity of *Conquest*, and think themselves secure of not having their Honour tainted by it. Some are apt to believe their *Vertue* is too *Obscure*, and not enough known, except it is exposed to a *broader Light*, and let out to its best advantage, by some publick Trials. These are dangerous

gerous experiments, and generally fail, being built upon so weak a Foundation, as that of a too great *Confidence* in our selves. It is as safe to play with *Fire*, as to dally with *Gallantry*. *Love* is a Passion that hath Friends in the Garrison, and for that reason must by a Woman be kept at such a distance, that she may not be within the danger of doing the most usual thing in the World, which is conspiring against her Self: Else the humble Gallant, who is only admitted as a Trophy, very often becometh the Conquerour; he putteth on the Style of Victory, and from an *Admirer* groweth into a *Master*, for so he may be called from the Moment he is in Possession. The first Resolutions of stopping at good Opinion and Esteem, grow weaker by degrees  
against



against the Charms of *Courtship* skilfully applyed. A Lady is apt to think a Man speaketh so much Reason whilst he is *Commending* her, that she hath much ado to believe him in the wrong when he is making Love to her: And when besides the natural Inducements your Sex hath to be merciful, she is bribed by well-chofen *Flattery*, the poor Creature is in danger of being caught like a Bird listening to the Whistle of one that hath a Snare for it. *Conquest* is so tempting a thing, that it often maketh Women mistake Men's *Submissions*; which with all their fair Appearance, have generally less *Respect* than *Art* in them. You are to remember, that Men who say extreme fine things, many times say them most for their own sakes; and that the

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vain Gallant is often as well pleased with his own *Compliments*, as he could be with the *kindest answer*. Where there is not that *Ostentation* you are to suspect there is *Design*. And as strong *Perfumes* are seldom used but where they are necessary to smother an unwelcome *scent*, so *Excessive good Words* leave room to believe they are strewed to cover something, which is to gain admittance under a Disguise. You must therefore be upon your Guard, and consider, that of the two, *Respect* is more dangerous than *Anger*. It puts even the best Understandings out of their place for the time, till their second thoughts restore them, it stealeth upon us insensibly, and throweth down our *Defences*, and maketh it too late to resist, after we have given it that  
ad-

advantage. Whereas railing goeth away in sound; it hath so much noise in it, that by giving warning it bespeaketh Caution. *Respect* is a slow and a sure *Poison*, and like *Poison* swelleth us within our selves. Where it prevail-eth too much it groweth to be a kind of *Apoplexie* in the Mind, turneth quite round, and after it hath once seiz'd the understanding, becometh *mortal* to it. For these Reasons, the safest way is to treat it like a fly Enemy, and to be perpetually upon the Watch against it.

I will add one *Advice* to conclude this Head, which is that you will let every seven Years make some alteration in you towards the *Graver* side, and not be like the *Girls* of Fifty, who resolved to be always *Young*, whatever

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*Time* with his Iron Teeth hath determined to the contrary. Un-natural things carry a *Deformity* in them never to be *Disguised*; the *Liveliness* of *Youth* in a riper Age, looketh like a *new patch* upon an *old Gown*; so that a *Gay Matron*, a cheerful *old Fool* may be reasonably put into the List of the *Tamer* kind of *Monsters*. There is a certain Creature call'd a *Grave Hobby-Horse*, a kind of a she *Numps*, that pretendeth to be pulled to a Play, and must needs go to *Bartholomew Fair*, to look after the young Folks, whom she only seemeth to make her Care, in reality she taketh them for her excuse. Such an old *Butterfly* is of all *Creatures*, the most ridiculous, and the soonest found out. It is good to be early in your Caution, to avoid any thing that cometh within distance

distance of such despicable Patterns, and not like some *Ladies*, who defer their *Conversion*, till they have been so long in possession of being laughed at, that the *World* doth not know how to change their *Style*, even when they are reclaimed from that which gave the first occasion for it.

The Advantages of being *reserved* are too many to be set down, I will only say, that it is a *Guard* to a good *Woman*, and a *Disguise* to an *ill one*. It is of so much use to both, that those ought to use it as an *Artifice*, who refuse to practice it as a *Vertue*.



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## FRIENDSHIPS.

**I** Must in a particular manner recommend to you a strict Care in the Choice of your *Friendships*. Perhaps the best are not without their *Objections*, but however, be sure that yours may not stray from the Rules which the wiser part of the World hath set to them, The Leagues *Offensive* and *Defensive*, seldom hold in *Politicks*, and much less in *Friendships*. The violent *Intimacies*, when once broken, of which they scarce ever fail, make such a *Noise*; the Bag of Secrets untied, they fly about like Birds let loose from a Cage, and become the *Entertain-*

## FRIENDSHIPS. 99

*tainment* of the *Town*. Besides; these great *Dearnesses* by degrees grow *Injurious* to the rest of your *Acquaintance*, and throw them off from you. There is such an *Offensive* Distinction when the *Dear Friend* cometh into the Room, that it is *flinging Stones* at the *Company*, who are not apt to forgive it.

Do not lay out your *Friendship* too *lavishly* at first, since it will, like other things, be so much the sooner spent; neither let it be of too sudden a *growth*; for as the Plants which shoot up too *fast* are not of that *continuance*, as those which take more time for it; so too swift a Progress in pouring out your *Kindness*, is a certain Sign that by the Course of Nature it will not be *long-lived*. You will be responsible to the World,

if you pitch upon such *Friends* as at the time are under the weight of any *Criminal Objection*. In that case you will bring your self under the Disadvantages of their *Character*, and must bear your part of it. *Chusing* implieth *Approving*; and if you fix upon a *Lady* for your *Friend* against whom the World shall have given Judgement, 'tis not so well natur'd as to believe you are altogether *averse* to her way of *living*; since it doth not discourage you from admitting her into your *Kindness*. And *Resemblance* of *Inclinations* being thought none of the least Inducements to *Friendship*, you will be looked upon at least as a Well-wisher if not a *Partner* with her in her Faults. If you can forgive them in an other, it may be presumed you will not be less gentle to your self; and there-

therefore you must not take it ill, if you are reckoned a *Croupiere*, and condemned to pay an equal Share with such a Friend of the *Reputation* she hath lost.

If it happeneth that your *Friend* should fall from the State of *Innocence* after your Kindness was engaged to her, you may be slow in your belief in the beginning of the Discovery: But as soon as you are convinced by a *Rational Evidence*, you must, without breaking too *roughly*, make a far and a quick *Retreat* from such a *Mistaken Acquaintance*: Else by moving too *slowly* from one that is so tainted, the Contagion may reach you so far as to give you part of the *Scandal*, tho' not of the *Guilt*. This Matter is so nice, that as you must not be too hasty to *join* in the *Censure* upon your *Friend* when she

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she is *accused*, so you are not on the other side to *defend* her with too much warmth; for if she should happen to deserve the Report of *Common Fame*, besides the Vexation that belongeth to such a mistake, you will draw an *ill appearance* upon your self, and it will be thought you pleaded for her not without some *Consideration* of your self. The *Anger* which must be put on to vindicate the *Reputation* of an *injured Friend*, may incline the Company to suspect you would not be so *zealous*, if there was not a possibility that the Case might be your own. For this Reason you are not to carry your *dearness* so far, as absolutely to loose your Sight where your Friend is concerned. Because *Malice* is too quick sighted, it doth not follow, that *Friendship* must be



be *blind*: There is to be a *Mean* between these two *Extreams*, else your Excess of Good Nature may betray you into a very *ridiculous Figure*, and by degrees who may be preferred to such Offices as you will not be proud of. Your *Ignorance* may lessen the *Guilt*, but will improve the *Jest* upon you, who shall be kindly solicitous to procure a Meeting, and innocently contribute to the *ills* you would avoid: Whilst the *Contriving Lovers*, when they are alone, shall make you the Subject of their *Mirth*, and perhaps (with respect to the Goddess of *Love* be it spoken) it is not the worst part of their *Entertainment*, at least it is the most lasting, to laugh at the *believing Friend*, who was so easily deluded.

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Let the good Sence of your *Friends* be a chief Ingredient in your *Choice* of them ; else let your *Reputation* be never so clear, it may be clouded by their *Impertinence*. It is like our Houses being in the Power of a Drunken or a Careless Neighbour ; only so much worse, as that there will be no *Insurance* here to make you amends, as there is in the case of Fire.

To conclude this Paragraph ; If *Formality* is to be allowed in any Instance, it is to be put on to resist the Invasion of such forward Women as shall press themselves into your *Friendship*, where if admitted, they will either be a *Snare* or an *Incumbrance*.

## CENSURE.

I will come next to the Consideration, how you are to manage your *Censure*; in which both Care and skill will be a good deal required. To distinguish is not only *natural* but *necessary*; and the Effect of it is, That we cannot avoid giving Judgment in our Minds, either to *absolve* or *condemn* as the Case requireth. The *Difficulty* is, to know when and where it is fit to *proclaim* the *Sentence*. An *Aversion* to what is *Criminal*, a *Contempt* of what is *Ridiculous*, are the *inseparable Companions* of understanding and *Vertue*; but the letting them go farther  
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ther then our own *Thoughts*, hath so much danger in it, that though it is neither possible nor fit to *suppress* them intirely, yet it is necessary they should be kept under very great *Restraints*. An *unlimited Liberty* of this kind is little less than sending a *Herald* and proclaiming War to the World, which is an *angry Beast* when so provoked. The *Contest* will be *unequal*, though you are never so much in the right; and if you begin against such an *Adversary*, it will tear you in pieces, with this *Justification*, That it is done in its own *Defence*. You must therefore take heed of *Laughing*, except in *Company* that is very sure. It is throwing *Snow-balls* against *Bullets*; and it is the *disadvantage* of a *Woman*, that the *Malice* of the *World* will help the  
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Brutality of those who will throw a *slovenly Untruth* upon her. You are for this Reason to suppress your *Impatience* for Fools; who besides that they are too strong a Party to be unnecessarily provoked, are of all others, the most dangerous in this Case. A *Block-head* in his *Rage* will return a *dull Jest* that will lie heavy, though there is not a *Grain* o' *Wit* in it. Others will do it with more Art, and you must not think your self secure because your *Reputation* may perhaps be out of the reach of *Ill-will*; for if it findeth that part *guarded*, it will seek one which is more *exposed*. It flieth, like a corrupt Humour in the Body, to the *weakest* Part. If you have a *tender Side*, the World will be sure to find it, and to put the worst *Colour* upon all you say or do,



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do, give an *Aggravation* to every thing that may lessen you, and a *spiteful turn* to every thing that might recommend you. *Anger* layeth open those Defects which *Friendship* would not see, and *Civility* might be willing to forget. *Malice* needeth no such *Invitation* to encourage it, neither are any *Pains* more superfluous than those we take to be ill spoken of. If *Envy*, which never dyeth, and seldom sleepeth, is content sometimes to be in a *Slumber*, it is very unskilful to make a noise to awake it.

Besides, your *Wit* will be misapplied if it is wholly directed to discern the *Faults* of *others*, when it is so necessary to be often used to mend and prevent your own. The sending our *Thoughts* too much abroad, hath the same Effect, as  
when

when a *Family* never stayeth at Home; *Neglect* and *Disorder* naturally followeth; as it must do within our selves, if we do not frequently turn our Eyes inwards, to see what is amiss with us, where it is a sign we have an *unwelcome Prospect*, when we do not care to look upon it, but rather seek our *Consolations* in the *Faults* of those we converse with.

Avoid being the first in fixing a *hard Censure*, let it be confirmed by the *general Voice*, before you give into it; Neither are you then to give Sentence like a *Magistrate*, or as if you had a *special Authority* to bestow a *good* or *ill Name* at your discretion. Do not dwell too long upon a *weak Side*, touch and go away; take pleasure to stay longer where you can commend, like Bees that fix only upon those  
Herbs

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Herbs out of which they may extract the Juice of which their Honey is composed. A *Vertue* stuck with *Bristles* is too rough for this Age; it must be adorned with some *Flowers*, or else it will be unwillingly entertained; so that even where it may be fit to strike, do it like a *Lady*, gently; and assure your self, that where you care to do it, you will wound others more, and hurt your self less, by *soft Strokes*, than by being *harsh* or *violent*.

The Triumph of *Wit* is to make your *good Nature* subdue your *Censure*; to be quick in *seeing Faults*, and slow in *exposing* them. You are to consider, that the invisible thing called a *Good Name*, is made up of the Breath of Numbers that speak well of you; so that if by a *disobliging*  
Word

# CENSURE.

III

Word you silence the *meanest*, the Gale will be less strong which is to bear up your *Esteem*. And though nothing is so vain as the eager pursuit of *empty Applause*, yet to be well thought of, and to be kindly used by the World, is like a *Glory* about a Womans *Head*; 'tis a *Perfume* she carrieth about with her, and leaveth where-ever she goeth; 'tis a Charm against *Ill-will*. *Malice* may empty her Quiver, but cannot wound; the Dirt will not stick, the Jests will not take; Without the consent of the World a *Scandal* doth not go deep; it is only a slight stroak upon the injured Party, and returneth with the greater force upon those that gave it.

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*VANITY and AFFECTATION.*

**I** Must with more than ordinary earnestness give you Caution against *Vanity*, it being the Fault to which your Sex seemeth to be the most *inclined*; and since *Affectation* for the most part attendeth it, I do not know how to divide them. I will not call them *Twins*, because more properly *Vanity* is the Mother, and *Affectation* is the Darling Daughter; *Vanity* is the Sin, and *Affectation* is the Punishment; the first may be called the Root of *Self-Love*, the other the *Fruit*. *Vanity* is never at its full growth till  
it



it spreadeth into *Affectation*, and then it is compleat.

Not to dwell any longer upon the definition of them, I will pass to the means and motives to avoid them. In order to it, you are to consider, that the World challengeth the right of distributing Esteem and Applause; so that where any assume by their single Authority to be their own *Carvers*, it groweth angry, and never faileth to seek *Revenge*. And if we may measure a Fault by the greatness of the *Penalty*, there are few of a higher size than *Vanity*, as there is scarce a Punishment which can be heavier than that of being laughed at.

*Vanity* maketh a Woman tainted with it, so top full of her self, that she spilleth it upon the *Company*. And because her own thoughts

thoughts are intirely imployed in *Self-Contemplation*; she endeavoureth, by a cruel Mistake, to confine her *Acquaintance* to the same narrow Circle of that which only concerneth her Ladyship, forgetting that she is not of half that *Importance* to the World, that she is to her self, so mistaken she is in her Value, by being her own Appraiser. She will fetch such a Compass in Discourse to bring in her beloved *Self*, and rather than fail, her fine Petty-Coat, that there can hardly be a better Scene than such a Tryal of ridiculous Ingenuity. It is a Pleasure to see her Angle for *Commendations*, and rise so disatisfied with the Ill-bred *Company*, if they will not bite. To observe her throwing her *Eyes* about to fetch in Prisoners, and go about Cruizing  
like

like a Privateer, and so out of *Countenance*, if she return without *Booty*, is no ill piece of Comedy. She is so eager to draw respect, that she always misseth it, yet thinketh it so much her due, that when she faileth, she groweth *waspish*, not considering, that it is impossible to commit a Rape upon the will ; that it must be fairly gained, and will not be taken by *Storm* ; and that in this Case, the Tax ever raiseth highest by a *Benevolence*. If the World instead of admiring her *Imaginary Excellencies*, taketh the Liberty to laugh at them, she *appealeth* from it to her self, for whom she giveth *Sentence*, and proclaimeth it in all *Companies*. On the other side, if encouraged by a *Civil Word*, she is so obliging, that she will give thanks for being laughed at in good Language. She taketh a  
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*Compliment* for a Demonstration, and setteth it up as an *Evidence*, even against her Looking-Glass. But the good *Lady* being all this while in a most profound *Ignorance* of her self, forgetteth that Men would not let her talk upon them, and throw so many *senseless words* at their Head, if they did not intend to put her Person to Fine and Ransom, for her *Impertinence*. Good words of any other Lady, are so many Stones thrown at her, she can by no means bear them, they make her so uneasie, that she cannot keep her *Seat*, but up she riseth and goeth Home half burst with *Anger* and *Strait-Lacing*. If by great chance she saith any thing that hath sence in it, she expecteth such an Excessive rate of *Commendations*, that to her thinking

ing the Company ever riseth in her *Debt*. She looketh upon *Rules* as things made for the common People, and not for Persons of her *Rank*; and this Opinion sometimes tempteth her to Extend her Prerogative to the dispensing with the commandments. If by great *Fortune* she happeneth, in spite of her *Vanity*, to be honest, she is so troublesome with it, that as far as in her lieth, she maketh a *scurvy* think of it. • Her bragging of her *Vertue*, looketh as if it cost her so much pains to get the better of her Self, that the *Inferences* are very ridiculous. Her *good Humour* is generally applied to the laughing at *good Sense*. It would do one good to see how heartily she despiseth any thing that is fit for her to do. The greatest part of

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her *Fancy* is laid out in chusing her *Gown*, as her *Discretion* is chiefly imployed in *not paying* for it. She is faithful to the *Fashion*, to which not only her *Opinion*, but her *Senses* are wholly resigned: so obsequious she is to it, that she would be ready to be reconciled even to *Vertue* with all its *Faults*, if she had her dancing Master's Word that it was practised at Court.

To a Woman so compos'd when *Affectation* cometh in to improve her *Character*, it is then raised to the highest *Perfection*. She first setteth up for a *Fine thing*, and for that Reason will distinguish herself right or wrong, in every thing she doth. She would have it thought that she is made of so much the *finer Clay*, and so much more *sifted* than



than ordinary, that she hath no *common Earth* about her. To this end she must neither move nor speak like other Women, because it would be *vulgar*; and therefore must have a Language of her own, since *ordinary English* is too coarse for her. The *Looking-glass* in the Morning dictateth to her all the *Motions* of the Day, which by how much the more *studied*, are so much the more *mistaken*. She cometh into a Room as if her Limbs were set on with ill made Screws, which maketh the Company fear the pretty thing should leave some of its *Artificial Person* upon the Floor. She doth not like her self as *God Almighty* made her, but will have some of *her own Workmanship*; which is so far from making her a better thing than a *Woman*, that it turneth her

into a worse Creature than a *Monkey*. She falleth out with *Nature*, against which she maketh War without admitting a *Truce*, those Moments excepted in which her *Gallant* may reconcile her to it. When she hath a mind to be *soft* and *languishing*, there is something so natural in that *affected Easiness*, that her *Frowns* could not be by many degrees so forbidden. When she would appear unreasonably *humble*, one may see she is so excessively *proud*, that there is no enduring it. There is such an *impertinent Smile*, such a *satisfied Simper*, when she faintly disowneth some fulsom Commendation a Man happeneth to bestow upon her against his Conscience, that her *Thanks* for it are more visible under such a thin *Disguise*, than they

they could be if she should *print* them. If a *handsomer Woman* taketh any liberty of *Dressing* out of the ordinary Rules, the mistaken Lady followeth, without distinguishing the *unequal Pattern*, and maketh her self *uglier* by an example misplaced; either forgetting the Privilege of good *Looks* in *another*, or presuming, without sufficient Reason upon *her own*. Her *Discourse* is a *senseless Crime* of *empty Words*, a heap of *Compliments* so equally applied to differing *Persons*, that they are neither valued nor believed. Her *Eyes* keep pace with her *Tongue*, and are therefore always in *motion*. One may discern that they generally incline to the *compassionate* side, and that, notwithstanding her pretence to *Vertue*, she is gentle

tle to *distressed Lovers*, and *Ladies* that are *merciful*. . She will repeat the tender part of a *Play* so feelingly, that the Company may guess, without Injustice, she was not altogether a *disinterested Spectator*. She thinketh that *Paint* and *Sin* are conceal'd by railing at them. Upon the latter she is less hard, and being divided between the two opposite Prides of her *Beauty* and her *Vertue*, she is often tempted to give broad Hints that some body is dying for her; and of the two she is less unwilling to let the World think she may be sometimes *profan'd*, than that she is never *worshipped*.

Very great *Beauty* may perhaps so dazle for a time, that Men may not so clearly see the *Deformity* of these *Affectations*; But  
when

when the *Brightness* goeth off, and that the *Lover's Eyes* are by that means set at liberty to see things as they are, he will naturally return to his Senses and recover the Mistake into which the Lady's *good Looks* had at first engaged him. And being once undeceived, ceaseth to worship that as a *Goddeſs*, which he ſeeth only an *Artificial Shrine* moved by *Wheels* and *Springs*, to delude him. Such Women pleaſe only like the *fiſt Opening* of a *Scene*, that hath nothing to recommend it but the being *new*. They may be compared to *Flies*, that have pretty ſhining *Wings* for two or three hot Months, but the fiſt cold Weather maketh an end of them; ſo the *latter Seaſon* of theſe *fluttering Creatures* is

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dismal : From their nearest Friends they receive a very faint Respect ; from the rest of the World, the utmost degree of contempt.

Let this *Picture* supply the place of any other *Rules* which might be given to prevent your *resemblance* to it. The *Deformity* of it, well considered, is *Instruction* enough ; from the same Reason, that the sight of a *Drunkard* is a better *Sermon* against that *Vice*, than the best that was ever preached upon that *Subject*.

P R I D E.



## P R I D E.

**A**FTER having said this against *Vanity*, I do not intend to apply the same *Censure* to *Pride*, well placed and rightly defined. It is an *ambiguous Word*; one kind of it is as much a *Vertue*, as the other is a *Vice*: But we are naturally so apt to chuse the *worst*, that it is become dangerous to commend the *best* side of it.

A Woman is not to be proud of her fine Gown; nor when she hath less Wit than her Neighbours, to comfort her self that she

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she hath more Lace. Some Ladies put so much weight upon *Ornaments*, that if one could see into their Hearts, it would be found, that even the Thoughts of *Death* is made less heavy to them by the contemplation of their being *laid out in State*, and *honourably attended* to the Grave. One may come a good deal short of such an *Extream*, and yet still be sufficiently *Impertinent*, by setting a wrong Value upon things, which ought to be used with more indifference. A Lady must not appear solicitous to ingross *Respect* to her self, but be content with a reasonable *Distribution*, and allow it to others, that she may have it returned to her. She is not to be troublesomly *nice*, nor distinguish her self by being too  
*delicate*

*delicate*, as if ordinary things were too *course* for her ; this is an *unmannerly* and an *offensive* Pride, and where it is practised, deserveth to be mortified, of which it seldom faileth. She is not to lean too much upon her *Quality*, much less to despise those who are below it. Some make *Quality* an *Idol*, and then their *Reason* must fall down and worship it. They would have the *World* think, that no amends can ever be made for the want of a *great Title*, or an ancient *Coat of Arms*: They imagine, that with these *advantages* they stand upon the *higher Ground*, which maketh them look down upon *Merit* and *Vertue*, as things inferiour to them. This mistake is not only *senseless*, but *criminal* too, in putting a greater  
Price

Price upon that which is a piece of *good luck*, than upon things which are valuable in themselves. *Laughing* is not enough for such a *Folly*; it must be severely *whipped*, as it justly deserves. It will be confessed, there are frequent *Temptations* given by *pert Upstarts* to be angry, and by that to have our Judgments corrupted in these Cases: But they are to be resisted; and the utmost that is to be allowed, is, when those of a *new Edition* will forget themselves, so as either to brag of their *weak side*, or to endeavour to hide their *Mean-ness* by their *Insolence*, to cure them by a little seasonable *Raillery*, a little *Sharpness* well placed, without dwelling too long upon it.

These and many other kinds of *Pride* are to be avoided.

♥ That

That which is to be recommended to you, is an *Emulation* to raise your self to a *Character*, by which you may be distinguished: an Eagerness for precedence in *Vertue*, and all such other things as may gain you a greater share of the good Opinion of the World. *Esteem* to *Vertue* is like a *cherishing Air* to *Plants* and *Flowers*, which maketh them blow and prosper; and for that Reason it may be allowed to be in some degree the *Cause* as well as the *Reward* of it. That *Pride* which leadeth to a *good End*, cannot be a *Vice*, since it is the beginning of a *Vertue*; and to be pleased with just *Applause*, is so far from a *Fault*, that it would be an *ill Symptom* in a Woman, who should not place the greatest part of her *Satisfacti-*

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on in it. *Humility* is no doubt a great *Vertue*; but it ceaseth to be so, when it is afraid to scorn an *ill thing*. Against *Vice* and *Folly* it is becoming your *Sex* to be *haughty*; but you must not carry the *Contempt* of *things* to *Arrogance* towards *Persons*, and it must be done with fitting *Distinctions*, else it may be *Inconvenient* by being unseasonable. A *Pride* that raiseth a little *Anger* to be outdone in any thing that is good, will have so good an *Effect*, that it is very hard to allow it to be a Fault.

It is no easie matter to carry even between these differing kinds of described; but remember that it is safer for a *Woman* to be thought too *proud*, than too familiar.

D I.



## DIVERSIONS.

THE last thing I shall recommend to you, is a wise and a safe method of using *Diversions*. To be too eager in the pursuit of Pleasure whilst you are *Young*, is dangerous ; to catch at it in riper *Years*, is grasping a shadow ; it will not be held. Besides that by being less natural it groweth to be indecent. *Diversions* are the most properly applied, to ease and relieve those who are *Oppressed*, by being too much employed. Those that are *Idle* have no need of them, and yet they, above all others, give themselves

elves up to them. To unbend our *Thoughts*, when they are too much stretched by our Cares, is not more natural than it is necessary, but to turn our whole Lives into a *Holy day*, is not only ridiculous, but *destroyeth* Pleasure instead of *promoting* it. The *Mind* like the *Body* is tired by being always in one Posture, too serious breaketh, and too diverting looseth it: It is *Variety* that giveth the Relish; so that *Diversions* too frequently repeated, grow first to be indifferent, and at last tedious. Whilst they are well chosen and well timed, they are never to be blamed; but when they are used to an excess, though very *Innocent* at first, they often grow to be *Criminal*, and never fail to be *Impertinent*.

Some

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Some Ladies are bespoken for Merry Meetings, as *Bessus* was for Duels. They are engaged in a Circle of *Idleness*, where they turn round for the whole Year, without the *Interruption* of a serious Hour. They know all the Players Names, and are *intimately* acquainted with all the Booths in *Bartholomew-Fair*. No Soldier is more *Obedient* to the sound of his Captain's *Trumpet*, than they are to that which summoneth them to a *Puppet-Play* or a *Monster*. The Spring that bringeth out *Flies*, and *Fools*, maketh them Inhabitants in *Hide-Park*; in the Winter they are an Incumbrance to the *Play House*, and the Ballast of the *Drawing Room*. The Streets all this while are so weary of these daily Faces, that *Men's Eyes* are  
over-

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over-laid with them. The sight is gluttoned with fine things, as the *Stomach* with sweet ones; and when a fair *Lady* will give too much of her self to the *World*, she groweth luscious, and oppresseth instead of pleasing. These *Jolly Ladies* do so continually seek *Diversion*, that in a little time they grow into a *Jest*, yet are unwilling to remember, that if they were seldomer seen they would not be so often *laughed at*. Besides they make themselves *Cheap*, than which there cannot be an *unkinder word* bestowed upon your *Sex*.

To play sometimes, to entertain *Company*, or to *divert* your self, is not to be disallowed, but to do it so often as to be called a *Gamester*, is to be avoided, next  
to

to the things that are most *Criminal*. It hath Consequences of *several kinds* not to be endured ; it will engage you into a habit of *Idleness* and *ill hours*, draw you into ill mixed *Company*, make you neglect your *Civilities* abroad, and your *Business* at home, and impose into your *Acquaintance* such as will do you no Credit.

To deep *Play* there will be yet greater *Objections*. It will give *Occasion* to the World to ask *spiteful Questions*. How you dare venture to *loose*, and what means you have to pay such great *Sums* ; If you pay *exactly*, it will be enquired from whence the *Money* cometh ? If you owe, and especially to a Man, you must be so very *Civil* to him for his forbearance, that it layeth a Ground of  
hav-

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having it farther improved, if the *Gentleman* is so disposed; who will be thought no unfair *Creditor*, if where the *Estate* faileth he seizeth upon the Person. Besides if a *Lady* could see her own Face upon an *ill Game*, at a deep Stake, she would certainly forswear any thing that could put her looks under such a *Disadvantage*.

To *Dance* sometimes will not be imputed to you as a Fault; but remember that the end of your *Learning* it, was that you might the better know how to move *gracefully*. It is only an *advantage* so far, when it goeth beyond it, one may call it *excelling* in a *Mistake*, which is no very great Commendation. It is better for a *Woman* never to *Dance*, because  
 she



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she hath no skill in it, than to do it too often, because she doth it well. The easiest as well as the safest *Method* of doing it is in *private Companies*, amongst *particular Friends*, and then carelessly, like a *Diversion*, rather than with *Solemnity*, as if it was a business, or had any thing in it to deserve a *Months preparation* by serious Conference with a *Dancing-Master*.

Much more might be said to all these Heads, and many more might be added to them. But I must restrain my Thoughts, which are full of my Dear Child, and would overflow into a Volume, which would not be fit for a *New-Years-Gift*. I will conclude with my warmest Wishes for all that is good to you. That you may live  
so

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so as to be an Ornament to your Family, and a Pattern to your Sex. That you may be blessed with a Husband that may value, and Children that may inherit your Vertue; that you may shine in the World by a true Light, and silence Envy by deserving to be esteemed; That Wit and Vertue may both conspire to make you a great Figure. When they are separated, the first is so empty, and the other so faint, that they scarce have right to be commended. May they therefore meet and never part; let them be your Guardian Angels, and be sure never to stray out of the distance of their joint protection. May you so raise your Character, that you may help to make the next Age a better thing, and leave Posterity in your Debt for the Advantage  
it

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it shall receive by your Example.

Let me conjure you, *My Dearest*, to comply with this kind Ambition of a Father, whose Thoughts are so ingaged in your behalf, that he reckoneth your Happiness to be the greatest part of his own.

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FINIS.

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